



Community ClipnoteS

A Quarterly Publication of The Center For Community Solutions
Division

Volume II, Issue 2

Summer



Summer is a time of cultivation and growth. So, get ready to incorporate the following into your daily lives as you interact in your neighborhoods and communities.

- ◆ Measure your goals
- ◆ Monitor your progress
- ◆ Reflect on your success
- ◆ Clarify long-term goals
- ◆ Strive to be more efficient
- ◆ Embrace feedback
- ◆ Encourage others
- ◆ Maintain relationships

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Join H.A.N.D.S at The 2004 conference

The Heartland Area Neighborhood Development Symposium will be Saturday, Sept. 25, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation building at 4801 Rockhill Road.

This year's theme is "Preparing for the Future of Neighborhoods." Workshops are divided into three tracks: leadership, neighborhood sustainability, and community safety issues.

A KCMO neighborhood association president who had attended a past H.A.N.D.S. conference, recommends that all community activists attend the conference.

The H.A.N.D.S. conference is one of the region's primary venues for bringing together neighborhood groups, governments, and practitioners to network and share ideas. In addition, this will be a time for those

involved in building successful communities to celebrate their achievements and partner to promote a spirit of active cooperation and shared responsibility in creating safer and healthier neighborhoods.

The conference is free to those who register in advance. A \$20 fee will be charged to anyone who registers the day of the conference. Space is limited. A continental breakfast and lunch is being provided.

You can choose one of the following two methods of registering for the conference:

- 1) Register by phone by contacting Nancy McNellis at 913-895-6374
- 2) Register online at emcnell@opkansas.org

Expansion at Dangerous Buildings Demolition and Preservation Division

Effective August 9, 2004 the Dangerous Buildings Demolition and Preservation Division will be expanding yet again to provide the essential services to Kansas City, Missouri neighborhoods. As many of you recall in January 2002 the division expanded to encompass the Board-up, Community Correction Abatement, Demolition Lien Waiver and Municipal Court Fund Programs. This latest expansion will involve the Minor Home Repair, Barrier Removal, and Rehab Rebate programs formerly of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The division is very excited about taking these new programs to expand our existing services and create partnerships that will enrich our service delivery. The division is also welcoming new staff members to the team. Harold Jones, Roger Stewart, Scott Graybill and Tamika Nelson will be bringing their knowledge and expertise of the new programs to ensure a smooth and successful transition. Steps have already been taken to ensure that there will be minimal setbacks in delivering services on time. As with any transition of this magnitude we will experience a few rocky roads ahead.

Anyone having specific questions regarding the transition can contact Nathan Pare' (784-4024), Department Manager, at their convenience. Inquiries regarding specific cases can be directed to 784-4020.

Submitted by-Dangerous Buildings Demolition & Preservation Division

LEADERSHIP

SERVICES

Weed Control Program

Weed season is once again upon us. Tall grass and weeds dot the skyline. What is one to do? Where does one turn? To the Action Center my friend. The City Manager's Office Action Center (513-1313) is now handling all weed related requests for the Weed Control Program.

This spring the Weed Control Program joined the department of Parks and Recreation. The move by the City Manager was designed to consolidate programs and increase efficiency in programs. The Weed Control Program is responsible for the mowing of vacated properties within the city limits of Kansas City, MO. They are also tasked with mowing vacant city property as well. The Weed Control Program mows privately owned property and is responsible for the mowing of Land Trust of Jackson County properties as well.

There are approximately 4,000 properties in the Weed Control Program. Due to limited funding there is only enough money to cut these properties twice each summer. The first cycles started June 1, 2004 and ran through August 13, 2004. The second cycle began on August 13, 2004 and will run through the end of October 2004. Properties are grouped into designated areas. These areas are rotated each year to ensure that no particular area is consistently first or last.

The Weed Control Program has two inspectors who are responsible for the inspections of all properties along with management of the contractors. They personally inspect every property complaint and determine if the property is in violation. A violation exists when any portion of the property has weeds or grass over 10 inches in height. Once a property is found in violation the owner of the property is notified by letter. The property owner is given 15 days from receipt of the letter to mow the property. After 15 days the property is re-inspected and if still in violation at that time, it is scheduled to be mowed by contractor.

Submitted by—Kansas City Parks and Recreation

RecycleFIRST has collected Four Million pounds and counting...

All around town, folks are tossing cans, plastic bottles and pare into their RecycleFirst bin, and the numbers are adding up fast. In just four months, we've topped the amazing three million pound mark!

One-third of the city now has access to the simple, convenient RecycleFIRST curbside recycling program, which helps the environment and reduces landfill costs.

In September another third of our neighborhoods will start recycling, and the remaining third will begin December. Call the Department of Environmental Management at 816-513-3490 find out when recycling starts for you. If your neighborhood starts

recycling in September, please call Bridging the Gap to schedule an informational presentation for your group as soon as possible.

To arrange a presentation, call Judy Widener, Bridging The Gap RecycleFIRST Community outreach coordinator at 816-561-1061, ext.121. Signs, posters, flyers handouts and door-hangers are available at no cost to help alert your neighbors to start recycling.

If you neighborhood does not have regular meetings, invite your neighbors to attend one of the meetings listed below? Together, we're making Kansas City cleaner and more beautiful. The following meetings are for those neighborhoods who are

schedule to begin RecycleFIRST in September:

Northland Neighborhoods, Inc.
Antioch Shopping Center
September 23, 10:00 AM

Palestine Neighborhood Meeting
3449 Indiana Ave
Tuesday September 21, 6:00 PM

East Swope Highlands
Neighborhood Association
7007 Manchester Ave
Sunday September 26, 2:00pm

For additional information about RecycleFIRST, Judy Widener, Bridging The Gap RecycleFIRST Community outreach coordinator at 816-561-1061, ext.121

Submitted By- Bridging The Gap

Get Involved, Make a difference!

To address today's problems and face the challenges of the future, citizens must participate in government. That participation can take place in the form of discussions on building an economic base, restoring and maintaining neighborhood vitality or fostering the quality of life for all citizens.

Why Should You Get Involved?

Citizens primarily determine the quality of neighborhood life and are the major factor in achieving neighborhood vitality. They have the greatest stake in neighborhoods and can best ensure the vitality of the area in which they live. Citizens are the senior partners in the neighborhood vitality effort.

Kansas City residents can take active steps in participating in the political and community decision-making processes to ensure some control and ownership of decisions and actions rendered.

Meetings Open to the Public:

Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners:
meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at
Police HQ, 6th floor Board Room
Kansas City, MO . Call Sue Mehl for meeting times at
(816) 234-5055.

Kansas City Neighborhood Advisory Council:
Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 3:30
Robert J. Mohart Multi-Purpose FOCUS Center
3200 Wayne, Rm. 212, Kansas City, MO
(816) 784-4515

The Parks & Recreation Board:
Every Tuesday 2 p.m.
Parks & Recreation Department Headquarters
4600 East 63rd Street. Kansas City, MO

The Office of Community Complaints:
Meet quarterly call (816) 889-6640 for exact time and date
635 Woodland Ave., Suite 2102 Kansas City, Missouri
(816) 889-6640

City Council Meetings and Sessions:

Tuesdays-
1:30 pm Budget and Audit Committee.

Wednesdays
9:00 am Operations Committee.
9:00 am Finance Committee.
11:00 am Neighborhood Development & Housing Committee.
11:30 am Aviation Committee.
12:30 pm Finance Committee.
2:00 pm Planning, Zoning, & Economic Development Committee.

Thursdays
1:45 pm Business Session. 10th Floor
3:00 pm Council Session. 26th Floor

HELP PREVENT AUTO THEFT

The Department of Justice reported that every 24 seconds, a motor vehicle is stolen in the United States. The odds of a vehicle being stolen were 1 in 194 in 2001 (latest data available). The odds are highest in urban areas. Only 13.8 percent of thefts were cleared by arrests in 2002.

In Kansas City, the number of cars stolen as of April 2004 was 1,467. That's about 1 car every 4 minutes. As we head towards the end of summer let's review some ways to protect your vehicle from auto theft.

Close your windows, lock your doors, conceal your valuables and take your keys.

- Never leave your car running unattended
- Use a steering column locking device.
- Engrave your vehicle ID number on your windshield.
- Park your car in well lighted, well traveled areas.
- Put all packages in trunk.
- If you have a garage use it.
- Do not store spare keys in or around your vehicle.

Remember no amount of prevention can guarantee that your car will not be stolen, but taking a few simple precautions can reduce your chances of becoming a victim or being re-victimized. For more crime prevention tips contact the Center for Community Solutions at 816-784-4515.

Neighborhood Cleanup Assistance Program

The Department of Environmental Management for Kansas City Missouri welcomes the opportunity to work in partnership with your neighborhood to assist in cleanup efforts, by providing trash bags.

To request bags the neighborhood must submit a written request on letterhead signed by the neighborhood president, to include: a list of dates for the cleanups. The specific number of bags for each listed cleanup, and requested dates, address, or location for bags to be picked up.

The majority of trash collected can be recycled. When the trash is being collected please remember this and "Recycle FIRST."

The letter should be faxed, mailed or delivered to:
Environmental Management, Solid Waste Division /
NCAP Bags, 1815 N. Chouteau, Kansas City, MO
64120, Phone: 816-784-2114 Fax: 816- 504-5329.

These bags are NOT to be used for private or personal use. Misuse may result in the discontinuation of the program in the violating neighborhood.

Submitted by- Environmental Management

**KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY**

Robert J. Mohart FOCUS Center

3200 Wayne, Room 212

Phone: 816-784-4515

Fax: 816-784-4529



**CENTER FOR
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS**

Nothing Can Stop Dedication

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"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

-Mahatma Ghandi

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MONTH!!!

Each year more than 25 million people are victims of crime. You can "Help Take A Bite Out Of Crime" by participating in National Crime Prevention Month during the month of October.

Crime Prevention Month 2004 reflects the fact that time, money and other resources spent on prevention yield tremendous benefits in reducing crime and making our communities better, stronger and safer to live, work and play.

The Center for Community Solutions can provide your community group with additional information on crime prevention. Staff can be reached at 784-4515

"WHAT'S GOING ON?" IN KANSAS CITY.

The Neighborhood Community Calendar can answer that question for you. This calendar will allow not-for profit groups to enter information about upcoming events. By having this online calendar, neighborhood groups can foster the sharing of ideas.

You can view or input information for the calendar at the following website:

<http://www.kcmo.org/neighcomsol.nsf/calendar?openview> . Information on how to enter events on the calendar can also be obtained by calling our staff at 816-784-4515

**The Tow Lot Helps
Maintain Safe Neighborhoods**

Kansas City's Tow services does more than remove unwanted vehicles, this service help contribute to the safety of neighborhoods. Abandoned vehicles are used as an avenue for criminal activities like prostitution, drugs and even a place to hide illegal weapons or stolen items. The removal of these vehicles from our streets help secure our community from these activities and the protection against car accidents. To report abandoned vehicles call the Action Center at 513-1313

The Tow service also hold public vehicle auctions every other Tuesday to auction all unclaimed vehicles. Registration begins at 8:00 am, bidding for the vehicles starts at 10:00. You must be 18 years old and have a picture ID to register for the auction.

For more details, contact Debbie Stewart at 816-784-4084.